

Car blows up on Lebanon border

TEL AVIV (R) — An explosives-laden car blew up on the Lebanese side of the Israel-Lebanon border crossing at Metulla Saturday, a military spokesman said. He said initial reports indicated there were no injuries in the incident. But a Metulla resident, reached by telephone said the driver of the vehicle was killed in what he described as "a large blast". The car was destroyed and the offices of the U.S.-owned Christian Evangelist "Voice of Hope" television station were damaged. The television station, which is closely aligned with Lebanese militia leader, Major Sa'ad Haddad, was damaged in a similar bombing last March.

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جوردان تايمز جريدة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية - الرأي

Arab mediator to go to Syria

TUNIS (R) — Arab League Secretary-General Chadi Klibi was scheduled to leave for Damascus Saturday on the league's first mediation mission in the dispute between Syria and Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Palestinian sources said. The sources said Mr. Arafat had conferred with Mr. Klibi in Tunis Friday night and expressed strong support for the league's initiative. Mr. Arafat was expelled from Damascus a month ago and separate mediation attempts by Algeria and Saudi Arabia have failed. There was no indication of what concessions, if any, either side was prepared to make to help resolve the dispute. It arose when Mr. Arafat accused Syria of backing rebels against his leadership in Fateh, the mainstream Palestinian guerrilla movement.

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Cheysson in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Claude Cheysson, French minister of external relations, arrived in Tunis Saturday, the Tunisian news agency TAP said. It gave no details about the purpose or duration of his visit.

Kyprianou to hold talks with Thatcher

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President Spyros Kyprianou will travel to London Sunday for talks on the Mediterranean island's problems with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Tuesday, an official statement said Saturday. It added that Mr. Kyprianou will seek British support for a permanent solution to the problem of the divided island. Official sources said the issue of British bases in Cyprus was likely to be discussed.

Guinean president leaves Rabat

RABAT (R) — President Ahmad Sekou Toure of Guinea left Rabat Saturday after a brief private visit to Morocco where he conferred with King Hassan Friday night, the Moroccan news agency MAP said. The Guinean president is on his way home after attending a meeting of the Organisation of African Unity's bureau in Addis Ababa devoted to the situation in Chad.

Kashmir assembly suspends 23 members

NEW DELHI (R) — The Kashmir state assembly Saturday voted to suspend 23 members of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's Congress (I) Party from the house after they staged a protest sit-in, the Press Trust of India news agency reported. The vote was part of a continuing battle between the Congress and the National Conference Party (NCP), which won last month's elections in the Indian-administered territory. Congress has charged that the ballot was rigged.

New NATO commander takes over

NAPLES, Italy (R) — U.S. Lieutenant-General John Blount has replaced retiring Lt. Gen. James Thompson as chief of staff of allied forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), a North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) communiqué said Saturday.

Israel denies charges of annexation plans

PARIS (R) — The Israeli embassy in Paris has issued a statement denying allegations that Israel may be planning to annex the southern Lebanese border region. "Israel does not covet a single inch of Lebanese territory and strongly wishes to withdraw its forces as soon as possible," the embassy said in a communiqué. The Soviet news agency TASS said Friday that Israel intended to keep troops in southern Lebanon for years and may be planning to move its current border inside Lebanese territory.

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Heavy Iranian losses reported in new offensive

Iran, Iraq locked in fierce battle

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said Saturday fierce fighting was continuing in the northern sector of the Gulf war after Iranian forces, backed by Kurdish rebels, had tried to cross into Iraqi territory.

A military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said Iranian troops, helped by Kurdish rebels, had tried Saturday morning to cross into Iraq near Haj Omran.

"The heroes of Iraq, from Arab and Kurds, have fought bravely defending the dear homeland and inflicted heavy losses on the enemy in men and equipment," he said.

The spokesman did not detail enemy casualties and did not mention Iranian claims of more than 3,000 Iraqi troops killed or wounded, but said: "Fierce fighting is still going on and the enemy will reap nothing but frustration."

The INA report came more than 12 hours after Iran announced that it had launched a fresh offensive in the 34-month-old Gulf war.

The INA report indicated that Kurds, who live in the mountains along the common border between Iran and Iraq, were fighting on both sides.

Although many Kurds have fought against the Iranian and Iraqi governments, they have also regularly fought each other.

Iraq has accused Iran of aiding Kurdish rebels in Iraq, while Iran in turn has accused Iraq of supplying Kurds in its territory.

The Iraqi spokesman gave no details of the fighting, which Iran said involved ground and air forces, and Tehran's claims that strategic King mountain in Iraq and the nearby village of Iznu had fallen to its troops.

Iraq also said its troops aimed to capture a harracks at Haj Omran, on a Kurdish supply road between Rawandiz in Iraq to Piranshahr in Iran.

Earlier, Iraq said an Iranian plane had been shot down by Iraqi fighters in a dogfight near the Iranian border town of Baneh, about 145 kilometres south of the area where Iran said the major fighting was concentrated.

Iraq said Friday its troops had killed more than 1,000 Iranians in the northern sector on Wednesday during fresh Gulf war fighting.

The fighting appeared to be in an area where Iran said on Wednesday it had launched a raid into Iraqi territory against Kurdish rebels.

In a separate military communiqué, Iraq also said Friday it had shot down an Iranian plane over the northern sector.

On Thursday night, Iraq said its planes and helicopter gunships had carried out intensive raids on Iranian positions and troop concentrations in the north.

Earlier Saturday, Iran said its forces launched a ground and air offensive into northern Iraq Saturday and claimed it had achieved a major objective by capturing a mountain used as a base for artillery attacks against Iranian border positions.

The Iranian news agency IRNA said the offensive, which started early Saturday and ended a three-month lull in the Gulf war, was designed to cut Iraqi supply lines to Kurdish rebels in Iran and silence Iraqi artillery.

A military communiqué, quoted by the agency, claimed that more than 3,000 Iraqi troops had been killed or wounded so far in the thrust. It said four Iraqi battalions and a commando unit were almost wiped out, but did not give Iranian casualties.

After several hours of fighting, Iranian forces captured strategic King mountain, 2,600 metres, a major artillery base, it claimed.

The renewed fighting comes several days after Iraqi President Saddam Hussein appealed for fresh initiatives from the international community to end the war.

President Hussein has appealed for a ceasefire on several occasions, the latest on June 7 just before the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. But they were all rejected by Iran.

Iraqi leader visits war front

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein Saturday visited the northern sector of the Gulf war, where fierce ground and air fighting was reported to be continuing after a cross border offensive by Iranian forces.

Baghdad Radio said Friday that President Hussein returned to Baghdad after inspecting the northern war zone with Defence Minister Adnan Kheirallah and the army chief-of-staff, General Abdul Jabbar Shanshal.

An Iraqi high command communiqué, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said: "Fierce fighting is raging between our forces... and the enemy's troops and saboteur agents (Kurdish rebels) who betrayed the country's soil."

Bahrain stresses need to end Gulf war

BAHRAIN (R) — The emir of Bahrain stressed in talks with President Reagan this week the need to end the Iran-Iraq war, which has flared up again with a new Iranian offensive, the Bahrain-based Gulf News Agency reported Saturday.

The emir, Sheikh Isa Bin Salman Al Khalifa, said permanent members of the U.N. Security Council — the United States, Britain, China, France and the Soviet Union — had a big responsibility to end this "destructive war," it added.

The agency was quoting remarks in London by Bahrain's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammad Ibn Mubarak Al Khalifa, to reporters who travelled with the emir on his four-day visit to the United States.

Bahrain is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), also grouping Saudi Arabia, Oman, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Qatar, which has tried unsuccessfully to end the 34-month-old war along with the United Nations and other organisations.

Gulf leaders have stressed the need to end the conflict, fearing a continuation could lead to intervention by the super-powers.

The six states are now threatened by a massive oil slick caused by leakages from damaged Iranian wells at the head of the Gulf.

Another problem for the six states is the reported presence of several explosive mines, apparently from the Iran-Iraq war zone, drifting in the Gulf.

Before leaving for Washington last week, the emir of Bahrain said the Gulf Cooperation Council, formed in response to Iran's revolution and the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, was about to reactivate a Gulf war peace move.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao said in Dubai after visiting Tehran that positions between Iran and Iraq remained "irreconcilable" and not close enough for any peace moves, the official Emirates News Agency reported Saturday.

Iran said President Hussein addressed Col. Qadhafi as "Brother President of the Libyan Republic," but did not mention him by name. He signed the cable "Brotherly yours Saddam Hussein." It did not release the text of Col. Qadhafi's cable.

INA said President Hussein conveyed to Col. Qadhafi his pride in Iraqi achievements since the July 1968 revolution which brought the ruling Baath Party to power.

It added that the Iraqi people felt sad "because parts of our Arab Homeland are still under the domination of revisionists and traitors who stabbed the nation's aspirations and attempted to defile its honour by siding with foreign aggressors and covetors."

Last month, Col. Qadhafi embarked on a series of visits to Arab states with which he has had poor relations.

Arab diplomats said the visits to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, North Yemen and Morocco appeared to be a bid to improve Col. Qadhafi's standing with Arab leaders.

Since then, Libyan statements said Col. Qadhafi was intent on mobilising all Arabs against Israel, "the historic enemy," and on setting aside minor Arab disputes.



U.S. President Ronald Reagan Friday introduces his new special Middle East envoy, Robert McFarlane (left), who succeeds Philip Habib (right) who has resigned. (A.P. wirephoto)

Beirut ceasefire holds

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon was experiencing an uneasy calm Saturday after the bombardment Friday that killed at least 18 people and raised fears of another round of civil strife.

Radio stations said a ceasefire agreed Friday night between the warring factions was holding Saturday. Only occasional explosions were heard overnight in the troubled central Beirut mountains.

The ceasefire—the fourth attempt to stop the bloodshed Friday—was agreed between predominantly Christian right-wing militiamen and Druze with mediation by Israeli troops who control the Shouf region.

Newspapers described the mountain battles Friday that spilled over into the bombardment of Beirut International Airport and the rightist heartlands north and east of the capital as the worst in the eight-month-old Druze-rightist conflict.

Security officials said 18 people were known to have died and more than 50 were wounded, though this figure did not include casualties in areas outside government control.

It was the eighth consecutive day of violence which many Lebanese fear has brought them back to the brink of civil war.

The Lebanese army said the attack on Beirut International Airport came from a Druze township in the nearby hills under Israeli army control.

Israeli spokesmen near Beirut said the shelling had not come from their occupation areas, but most residents of the airport area were skeptical.

Later, shells pounded into east Beirut and numerous rightist villages in the hills, apparently from the positions of pro-Syrian Lebanese militias.

The leader of the predominantly Druze Progressive Socialist Party (PSP), Walid Junblatt, announced in a news conference Saturday his militiamen were responsible for the attack on the airport.

His often emotional address, delivered at the Washington Convention Centre after five days of talks with U.S. government officials, was received enthusiastically by about 4,000 Lebanese-Americans.

They interrupted the speech 31 times with applause and greeted

Gemayel vows not to give up land or rights

WASHINGTON (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel promised Lebanese-Americans Saturday that no matter how difficult Middle East tensions became, his country would never surrender its land or its rights.

"However intractable may be the problems... however disabling the sanctions and restrictions imposed on us, even the bombings of yesterday, we will not barter away so much as an inch of our sacred land, nor compromise any of our countrymen's rights," Mr. Gemayel said.

His often emotional address, delivered at the Washington Convention Centre after five days of talks with U.S. government officials, was received enthusiastically by about 4,000 Lebanese-Americans.

They interrupted the speech 31 times with applause and greeted

Mr. Gemayel's arrival and departure with exuberant whistles, shouts and clapping.

One interruption came when Mr. Gemayel praised President Reagan "for his unstinting contribution to the cause of peace and understanding between nations."

In talks with Mr. Reagan and other U.S. officials this week, Mr. Gemayel urged a more aggressive U.S. effort to force withdrawal of Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian troops from Lebanon.

Mr. Reagan responded by naming Deputy National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane as Middle East envoy, replacing veteran negotiator Philip Habib in an attempt to advance the stalled peace initiative.

Key policy maker assumes Habib's job, page 2

Mr. Junblatt said the new front, effectively an alternative government, hoped to avoid bloody armed conflict.

However, in Beirut many Lebanese said they feared the move would bring Lebanon closer to outright civil war.

Mr. Junblatt's heavily-armed Druze militia has been one of the main elements in recent clashes in the mountains that have spilled over to include Beirut.

The Lebanese army said the shell and rocket attack on Beirut International Airport Friday came from Druze areas under the overall control of Israeli forces.

Mr. Junblatt's statement was made after the other main faction in the recent fighting, the rightist militia known as "the Lebanese Forces," warned that "the phase of decisive movement is nearing."

"The Lebanese Forces are determined more than ever to resist

the 'joint Syrian-Junblatt aggression with all the means at their disposal,'" it said.

Mr. Junblatt said a charter for the new national salvation front had already been drawn up. He, Mr. Franjieh and Mr. Karami formed the front's "political command," the policy-making body, he said.

The command would set up bodies to administer financial, economic, information, military and social security affairs in what he called "the liberated areas" of Lebanon.

This was apparently a reference to areas under Syrian control, comprising most of north Lebanon, including the country's second city, Tripoli, and the eastern Bekaa Valley, including Baalbek.

With Mr. Junblatt at the news conference were a number of other opposition figures, from the Lebanese Communist Party and various pro-Syrian and pro-Libyan parties. They had all signed the new charter, he said.

Mr. Junblatt said the new opposition front "has no alternative but to confront the regime in Lebanon -- the regime of the Falangist Party -- and to develop the confrontation against it."

Fateh factions renew clashes

BEIRUT (R) — Fresh clashes between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat erupted in eastern Lebanon Saturday, Lebanese security sources said.

The sources said fighting was reported early Saturday afternoon in the town of Ta'anayel, in the Syrian-held Bekaa Valley, but had no details. The right-wing Falangist radio said the pro- and anti-Arafat factions were using all types of weapons including artillery.

Loyalists within Mr. Arafat's own Fateh guerrilla group clashed with mutineers headed by dissident leader Colonel Abu Musa last month until a ceasefire was agreed through PLO mediation.

A Reuters correspondent who travelled through the Bekaa Valley Saturday morning, before the start of the reported clashes, said all was quiet with no abnormal military movement visible on the Beirut-Damascus highway.

Despite the ceasefire, Arafat supporters have repeatedly said they fear that the rebels may try to drive them out of their remaining positions in the Bekaa behind the Syrian-Israeli front line.

Rebel spokesmen in Damascus say they want to resolve the Fateh dispute by peaceful means and deny loyalist charges that they are responsible for starting the fighting.

The outbreak of fighting is reported at a time when Mr. Arafat appears to have made some concessions to the rebels' demands.

PLO sources in Damascus said Friday that the leadership had removed four Fateh military commanders whose appointment to top posts in Lebanon set off the revolt in May.

Israel praises Habib, welcomes McFarlane

TEL AVIV (R) — A spokesman for Prime Minister Menachem Begin Saturday expressed Israel's regret at U.S. special envoy Philip Habib's leaving his post and welcomed Robert McFarlane as his replacement.

Spokesman Uri Porat quoted the prime minister as saying Mr. Habib was one of the most brilliant diplomats he ever met.

"In many ways we are going to miss him," Mr. Porat told Reuters.

"During the last two years, he became one of the most dominant diplomatic figures in the region."

The Israelis are known to have become impatient and disappointed with Mr. Habib, architect of last summer's evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas from Beirut, after he failed to win Syrian and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement to

withdraw their forces from Lebanon.

Israel and Lebanon signed a withdrawal agreement in May, but Mr. Habib was unsuccessful in getting the Syrians and PLO to join the agreement. Damascus accused Mr. Habib of being pro-Israeli and said he was not welcome in Syria.

Mr. Porat said the prime minister had limited experience with Mr. McFarlane but respected him as "a tough diplomat who knows what he wants to achieve."

He said President Reagan sent Mr. McFarlane to Israel in 1981 after Israel bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor "to find the way to get rid of misunderstandings after that operation."

"He was very successful," he said. "The prime minister was very impressed by him."

Craxi says coalition could be formed by end of July

ROME (R) — Italian Prime Minister-designate Bettino Craxi, ending a first round of talks with political parties, said Saturday his goal of a five-party centrist coalition government was possible by the end of this month.

After two days of seeing other political leaders, the Socialist Party chief said: "The readiness of the Christian Democrat, Republican, Social Democrat and Liberal parties to form a coalition (with the Socialists) has been confirmed to me in an encouraging way."

Asked if there could be a government before the beginning of August, he said, "On a reasonable basis, this is possible."

Mr. Craxi, trying to become Italy's first Socialist prime minister, said meetings next week would tackle the potentially dangerous task of writing a coalition

programme.

The proposed alliance has 366 seats in the 630-seat chamber and would consist of the same parties in office for 18 months during the last parliament.

Mr. Craxi's optimism was echoed by Social Democratic Party leader Pietro Longo. He said after talks with Mr. Craxi Saturday that the Socialist boss had the Social Democrats' full support.

Mr. Longo called himself optimistic "at this stage" as did Liberal leader Valerio Zanone, but officials noted this was tempered by reminders that Mr. Craxi faces a political minefield in drawing up the coalition programme.

Mr. Craxi planned to present it to his proposed partners on Wednesday.

Adroit manoeuvring brings Craxi near top job, page 8

MIDDLE EAST

France hunts more Armenian suspects

PARIS (R) — French police said Saturday they were seeking three more Armenians they believe were connected with the July 15 bomb attack at Orly airport in which seven people were killed and almost 60 injured.

They named one of the wanted trio as Souner Navir, an electronics specialist. They said he had designed the firing circuits for the Orly bomb and for others claimed by the Secret Armenian Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA).

Varadjan Garbidjan, a Syrian-born Armenian, has already been charged with planting the Orly bomb at the Turkish Airlines desk.

He was named by government

spokesman Max Gallo as the leader of the military wing of ASALA, which claimed responsibility for the Orly bombing.

The government says Garbidjan, who is among 50 people of Armenian descent arrested last Monday, confessed that he had planted the bomb.

Police sources said investigators now believed he may have confessed to distract attention from other ASALA members involved in the July 15 bombing and allow them to escape.

The sources said experts had found that the tiny electronic firing circuit for the Orly bomb was identical to those used in other bombings for which ASALA claimed responsibility.

The sources said there was no doubt Garbidjan had passed the bomb, contained in a suitcase, to a passenger at the check-in desk. They added that others were involved in planning the raid and making the device.

They quoted Garbidjan as saying he received the order to plant the bomb from someone outside France.

Jonnes Semerci, a Turk, has been accused of complicity in the attack and nine other people face lesser charges.



ARMENIAN CONGRESS: Some of the Armenian delegates who attended the opening session of the 2nd Armenian World Congress at the Beaulieu Palace in Lausanne, Switzerland, Thursday morning. (A.P. wirephoto).

Key policy maker takes Habib's place

WASHINGTON (R) — Robert McFarlane, President Reagan's new Middle East negotiator, is a publicity-shy political moderate who is widely credited with being a major architect of U.S. foreign and national security policies.

Mr. McFarlane, 45, an expert on the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks (START) with the Soviet Union, worked for former national security affairs adviser Henry Kissinger in the Nixon White House and for Secretary of State Alexander Haig during the present administration.

He is currently deputy to William Clark, who is a national security affairs adviser and close friend of Mr. Reagan.

A former Marine Corps colonel, Mr. McFarlane has been frequently called the power behind Mr. Clark and occasionally mentioned as a possible successor.

should his boss move on: Mr. McFarlane, whose nickname is "Bud", has been described as the quintessential staff man who works long hours for formulating key policy but shies away from taking credit.

"Bud is very smart, very thoughtful, very loyal, keeps his own counsel, and avoids publicity," former National security affairs adviser Brent Scowcroft said recently.

The White House said Mr. McFarlane, who replaces veteran

envoy Philip Habib, will retain his title as deputy to Mr. Clark. Mr. McFarlane is not without experience in the Middle East. In 1981 Mr. Haig sent Mr. McFarlane, then a relatively low-ranking state department official, to Israel for private, high-pressure talks with Prime Minister Menachem Begin.

Dutch police arrest suspect

ALMELO, The Netherlands (R) — Dutch police have arrested one man and questioned others about the murder of Turkish diplomat Dursun Aksol in Brussels on July 14, the Dutch news agency ANP reported Saturday.

In response to a request from Belgium, Turkish Armenian was arrested in this eastern town. The Almelo court will decide within 14 days whether the arrested man can be handed over to the Belgian authorities.

France may expel up to 12 Turkish, Iranian Armenians

PARIS (R) — Up to 12 Turkish and Iranian men arrested in police raids after last week's Orly Airport bombing are likely to be expelled from France in the next few days, a French interior ministry spokesman said.

Police rounded up about 50 people on Monday, three days after the bomb devastated a Turkish Airlines desk, killing three people outright and injuring 60, four of whom died later in hospital.

Syrian-born Armenian Varadjan Garbidjan, 29, was charged on Wednesday with planting the bomb and Jonnes Semerci, a

Turk, was accused of complicity. Nine other people faced lesser charges while about 20, all Turks or Iranians, are still being held without charge.

The spokesman said the authorities were entitled to hold the 20 until Tuesday evening but must then release or expel them.

"It is very likely there will be expulsions," he said. "The maximum would be about 12."

At a news conference earlier, three Armenian political groups said that 11 Armenians from Turkey and Iran would be expelled from France within six days. The Armenian national mo-

vement committee for the support of Armenian political prisoners and the union of young Armenian students said the charges against the 11 were empty.

Turkey has requested the extradition of 11 Armenians with Turkish passports held in the police custody. The French government has not yet responded to the request.

French external relations ministry spokesman said a person expelled from France would be allowed to choose to which country he or she was sent.

The three Armenian groups said the expulsions would unleash

a spiral of violence. One representative said: "To avenge innocent people one cannot condemn other innocent people."

Police sources said earlier this week that 20 people could face expulsion and that they were suspected of forming a support network in France for the Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia (ASALA), the guerrilla group that claimed responsibility for the airport bombing.

The newspaper Le Monde said Friday that an order expelling about 20 Turkish and Iranian Armenians had been signed by

Interior Minister Gaston Defferre in the last two days.

Quoting reliable sources, the newspaper said police suspected that two people among those due to be expelled were responsible for killing Turkish diplomat Dursun Aksol in Brussels on July 14, the day before the Orly bombing.

They had not admitted the killing but initial analysis showed that automatic pistols found during Monday's police raids may have been used for the attack and the suspects corresponded to descriptions given by Belgian police, Le Monde said.

Egyptian rebels arrested

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security police have arrested 25 members of a Muslim extremist group on charges of plotting to overthrow the government by force, the semi-official daily Al-Ahram reported Saturday.

In its late edition, Al-Ahram said the detainees were members of "the Islamic liberation party" whose doctrine is to change basic political structure of the country by force and establish the Islamic state.

They included Egyptians and Arabs and received financial and

other assistance from what the newspaper described as "foreign elements living in a European country." It did not elaborate.

More arrested

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian security police have arrested 13 people for plotting subversion and sabotage, the Cairo weekly Akhbar El-Yom reported.

The newspaper said the accused had made full confessions about the conspiracy which it said involved foreign countries. It gave no further details.

Things could grow hotter for multinationals force in Lebanon

BEIRUT (R) — Israel's planned troop pullback in Lebanon is likely to mean the multinational peacekeeping force moving out of the relative safety of Beirut to more troubled areas, diplomats say.

But it looks unlikely at present to involve expansion of the 5,000-strong force of French, Italian, U.S. and British soldiers.

President Amin Gemayel says the rapidly-growing Lebanese army is sufficiently effective to maintain order in areas Israeli troops will vacate to form a new defence line in southern Lebanon.

Visiting Washington this week, he said he would not request that troops of the four-nation force, now in Beirut, be moved into sensitive areas evacuated by the Israelis, such as the Shouf Mountains south of the capital where Christian militia and Druze villagers are locked in conflict.

"Hot areas will be managed by the Lebanese army directly," with the multinational force providing logistical and moral support, he said.

Diplomats say the multinational force is likely to secure main roads, with Lebanese troops controlling the hinterland.

One scenario being discussed here has French troops controlling

the Damascus road from Beirut to the Syrian front line at Sofar. U.S. Marines holding the road south to the Israeli front line and Italian troops manning the road north.

Fill the vacuum

Israel's plan, approved by the government on Wednesday, sparked speculation that Lebanon might seek expansion of the force to help the Lebanese army fill the vacuum.

Although the Lebanese government has been discussing boosting and redeploying the multinational force for at least six months, diplomats of the four countries said it had made no official request for more troops.

Lebanon and the United States are concerned that Israel's plan to deploy its forces to a new defence line in southern Lebanon will compromise an eventual withdrawal of all Israeli, Syrian and Palestinian forces.

"We are against the partial withdrawal. It would lead to the de facto partition of Lebanon," President Amin Gemayel told reporters in Washington.

The multinational force was formed last year to oversee the evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas from Beirut after Israel's

June invasion of Lebanon. It returned in September to help the Lebanese army maintain security. France and Italy each have some 2,000 troops in the force, and the United States has 1,200 Marines. Britain has sent 97 men and 18 scout cars.

Chances of expansion

Asked about prospects of expanding the force, officials in the four countries responded this way:

— In Washington, Pentagon officials said the U.S. contingent could be beefed up if it were the key to withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon, but not in order to make it easier for Israel to implement a pullback the United States opposes.

There is no enthusiasm here to raise our profile to any degree, one said.

— In Paris, French officials said France was willing to respond to a request from the Lebanese government to modify the role of its units provided all participating countries agreed.

France last week denied a Lebanese report that it had agreed to send another 3,000 men to help patrol the Shouf Mountains.

Diplomats said External Relations Minister Claude Cheysson was understood to have given some thought to undertaking on France's willingness to expand the force in line with its desire for a high French profile in the Middle East.

— In Rome, an Italian official said boosting Italy's contingent depended on a request from Lebanon.

On principle there are no reasons to reconsider any request," he said. "It is linked to the prospect of an agreement on the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon. It depends on the willingness of the Lebanese government to put forward a request for such an agreement."

— In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said Lebanon had not asked for an increase in British troops. "The Lebanese will put forward a request which is that we should increase our presence," he said.

By the way, considering a Lebanese request for the British to be allowed to patrol in the Shouf Mountains, "The Lebanese will put forward a request in wider terms," the spokesman said.

The Lebanese government is reluctant to send the army into the Shouf before a political settlement is reached to the Druze-Christian conflict, which will take time.

Druze leader Walid Jumblatt says his men will oppose the army if it enters the mountains before the conflict is resolved. The Druze are demanding radical changes in the basis of the Lebanese state that the Maronite Christians are unwilling to consider.

32,000 men

Lebanon's army and its equipment are expanding rapidly. It has grown from 20,000 to 32,000 men in the past three months and could soon reach 60,000, according to Foreign Minister Elie Salameh.

Its U.S. special forces trainers say conscription, introduced in April, has given the army balance in the ranks between Christians and Muslims.

The commander is by convention a Maronite Christian and Christians officers predominate, which has led the Druze and some Muslims to view the army as a tool of Christian domination.

Libyan leader to discuss W. Sahara in Mauritania

NOUAKCHOTT (R) — Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi started three days of talks on North African issues Saturday with Mauritanian leader Mohammed Ould Haider.

Informal sources said the Western Sahara dispute would dominate the talks.

Col. Qaddafi has long supported the Polisario guerrilla movement fighting Morocco for control of the Spanish colony. He

visited Morocco earlier this month.

Mauritania has renounced its claim to part of the territory and signed a peace treaty with the guerrillas in 1979, stopping short of an outright recognition of the self-proclaimed Saharan Democratic Arab Republic (SADR).

At last month's African summit conference in Addis Ababa a resolution was adopted urging Morocco and the guerrillas to start direct talks.

Madrid group to try to budge crucial Malta vote

MADRID (R) — The 35-nation European Security Conference held its first formal weekend meeting Saturday to bring renewed pressure on Malta, whose veto is holding up agreement at the three-year-old talks.

Despite appeals by Western, Eastern and neutral delegates to drop its eight-day-old filibuster, Malta was still holding out for a follow-up conference on Mediterranean security, opposed by all other participants, delegates said.

With a closing ceremony provisionally set for Sept. 7 to 9, delegates said they were ready to work through the weekend for the first time since preparatory meetings in 1980 to try to wear down Malta.

According to conference delegates, Maltese Ambassador Evarist Saliba said at the opening of the plenary session Saturday he had no new instructions from his government.

'U.S., French instructors help Afghans'

MOSCOW (R) — An alleged former Afghan resistance leader was quoted Saturday as saying that American and French military instructors were aiding anti-government guerrillas.

The official news agency TASS said it had interviewed the man, named as Mirahmad, in the Afghanistan of Kandahar after he had surrendered to government forces.

Mirahmad claimed that many foreign advisors were helping direct guerrilla operations against the Kabul government.

"I want to testify that instructors from the United States, France and some other countries are working in many of the counter-revolutionary gangs on the territory of our country," he told the TASS correspondent.

The agency said Mirahmad had been leader of a guerrilla band operating in the southern Helmand Province.

It did not make clear whether he was imprisoned and facing punishment for his guerrilla activities or had benefitted from an amnesty.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
16:30	Koran
16:50	Cartoons
17:20	Famous People
17:35	Nighty Mouse
18:00	Programme on Animals
18:10	Children's Programme
18:30	Programme on Iraq
19:20	Programme Review
19:30	Local Programme
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Local Programme
21:30	Local Programme
22:00	Arabic Series
22:30	News Summary
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Lady is Tramp
21:00	Hollywood
22:00	News in English
22:30	Best Sellers - "The Hangman"
RADIO JORDAN	
855 KHz, AM & 90 MHz, FM	
07:00	Morning Show
07:30	News Bulletin
08:00	News Summary
08:30	Morning Show
09:00	News Summary
09:30	Pop Session
10:00	News Summary
10:30	Catch the Words
11:00	News Bulletin
11:30	Instrumentals
12:00	Science Report
12:30	Concert Hour
13:00	News Summary
13:30	Instrumentals, Old Favourites
14:00	News Summary
14:30	News Summary
15:00	News Summary
15:30	News Summary
16:00	News Summary
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21:30	News Summary
22:00	News Summary
22:30	News Summary
23:00	News Summary
23:30	News Summary
24:00	News Headlines
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
630, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00	Newsdesk
06:30	Divertimento

WHAT'S GOING ON

CULTURAL CENTRES

Royal Cultural Centre	1-2551
American Centre	1-2551
British Cultural Centre	1-2551
French Cultural Centre	1-2551
Goethe Institute	1-2551
Soviet Cultural Centre	1-2551
Spanish Cultural Centre	1-2551
Turkish Cultural Centre	1-2551
Y.W.C.A.	1-2551
University of Jordan Library	1-2555

SERVICE CLUBS

Arab Human Club	Meetings every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
British Club	Meetings every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
French Club	Meetings every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
German Club	Meetings every Friday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
Italian Club	Meetings every Saturday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
Japanese Club	Meetings every Sunday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
Spanish Club	Meetings every Monday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
Swedish Club	Meetings every Tuesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
U.S. Club	Meetings every Wednesday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman
Y.W.C.A.	Meetings every Thursday at 7.30 p.m. at the Tyche Club, Amman

CHURCHES

St. Joseph's Church (Roman Catholic)	1-2551
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Spirit (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Trinity (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Virgin (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Wisdom (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Light (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Peace (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Truth (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Love (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Joy (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Hope (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Faith (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Charity (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Kindness (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Gentleness (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Patience (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Humility (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Modesty (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Simplicity (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Innocence (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Purity (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Obedience (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Zeal (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Diligence (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Industry (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Craft (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Art (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Science (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Wisdom (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Knowledge (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Understanding (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Reason (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
Church of the Holy Intellect (Greek Orthodox)	1-2551
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UNICEF to support Bani Hamideh villages water supply projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is to contribute \$600,000 to a project to supply 14 villages in the Madaba district with drinking water, according to a report in Al Ra'i newspaper Saturday.

It said that the project, which is expected to cost JD 240,000, entails the construction of water towers, the laying of a network of pipes and the installation of equipment for purifying and examining water. The water will be drawn from Madaba's main tower to the nearby Bani Hamideh villages, the report said.

A special technical committee formed by Minister of Manpower and Rural Affairs and the Hon. Hassan Al Momani has already completed a review of all the bids and the contract will soon be awarded to a local firm to carry it out, the report said.

Poland keen to expand links, says embassy

AMMAN (J.T.) — Poland Friday celebrated its national day and to mark the occasion the Polish embassy in Amman issued a statement emphasising Poland's keenness on developing ties with Jordan especially in cultural, economic and trade affairs.

Over the past few years relations between Poland and Jordan have been bolstered thanks to the visit to Poland of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in 1978, the statement said.

It added that the scientific and cultural cooperation and the recent Polish-Jordanian talks on increasing trade, exchanging expertise and the launching of joint economic ventures has played a major role in further strengthening ties between the peoples of the two countries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Umm Qais construction tender floated

IRBID (Petra) — The Housing Corporation has floated a tender for the construction of 150 housing units at Umm Qais town in the Irbid Governorate. The project entails the building of 100 one-storey units of 50 square metres each with the rest, being of 106 square metres, according to a spokesman for the Housing Corporation. The land has already been purchased for the project and work is expected to start in the coming two months, the spokesman said.

Holland to host pest control course

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Agriculture will take part in a training course to be opened in Holland on August 15, a ministry spokesman said Saturday. The course, which is expected to last one month, will deal with pests and disease control especially in relation to vegetable crops. The ministry will be represented on the course by Mohammad Abdullah Al Nuseirat and Mohammad Al Khudari, the spokesman said.

Egg marketing team leaves for Iraq

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team representing Jordanian agricultural cooperatives is due to leave for Baghdad Sunday to hold talks with Iraqi officials on marketing Jordanian eggs in Iraq. A report in the local press Saturday said that the team will try to conclude a contract to sell Iraq 60 million eggs between now and the end of 1983. Jordan has sold Iraq 74 million eggs so far this year, it said.

Rawabdeh to attend Arab cities meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Amman Municipality will participate in the meeting of the Arab Cities Organisation's (ACO) foreign relations committee which will open in Tunis on August 5, according to Sawt Al Shaab newspaper. It said Amman Mayor Abdul Ra'uf Al Rawabdeh will lead the municipality team to the meeting which is expected to last two days.

Karak to stage folk festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — The committee in charge of organising the Palestine Folk Festival in Jordan has announced plans to hold such performances in Karak, southern Jordan. According to a spokesman for Al Karak Cultural and Sports Club, Omar Suhaimat, the festival in Karak will include performances that will highlight the Jordanian people's solidarity with the Palestinians. The final event in the series of festivals, which have been staged in Jordan throughout July will be held at the Palace of Culture in Amman on August 8.

Dudin, Obeidi discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary General of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Mr. Mahdi Al Obeidi Saturday conferred with Agriculture Minister Marwan Dudin on cooperation between the ministry and CAEU. They discussed the prospect of the ministry benefiting from agricultural research projects conducted by the CAEU. Later on, Mr. Obeidi met Minister of Public Works Awni Al Masri to discuss subjects connected with Jordan's road network, and the formation of pan-Arab companies specialised in overland transport.

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Education Minister Sa'id Al Tal gives a press conference Saturday at which he announced details of the forthcoming Education Council meeting to be chaired by His Majesty King Hussein (Petra photo)

Mid-year customs duty receipts up in 1982 by JD12.28 million

By Lima Nabil
Special to the Jordan Times
and Al Ra'i

AMMAN — The customs authorities in Jordan collected JD 90,636,000 in customs duty in the first half of this year, registering an increase of JD 12.28 million over the first half of 1982, according to Ministry of Finance and Customs Under-Secretary Adel Al Oudah.

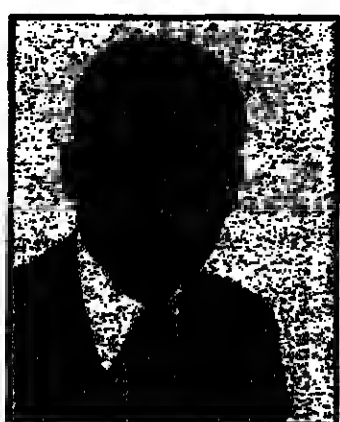
He said that the increase has been largely due to an improvement in the machinery for customs collection, the redistribution of responsibilities among customs officials and better ways of combating smuggling.

A number of officials have been sent to European countries to study ways of collecting customs fees on all goods and products entering the country and this has improved their performance, Mr. Oudah said in an interview with the Jordan Times and Al Ra'i newspapers.

Foreign cigarettes

As to the smuggling of goods and especially foreign cigarettes, Mr. Oudah said that "as long as the country has such large borders, a one hundred per cent elimination of smuggling is impossible, but customs officials in Jordan have been successful to a large extent in curbing smuggling."

On vehicles and cars owned by Jordanian expatriates that entered the country since the start of this summer, Mr. Oudah said that "to



Adel Al Oudah

date 16,000 cars have entered Jordan from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries through Al Omari and Al Mudawwara border posts in the eastern and southeastern parts of Jordan."

"These cars have been provided with special licence plates and their owners have paid the necessary fees to stay in the country for between one and three months to spend their summer holidays," Mr. Oudah added.

New customs law

In the interview, Mr. Oudah spoke about the new customs law which will come into force in October of this year. "This law permits arrivals into Jordan to bring in items worth JD 50 each without having to pay any customs duty on them, whereas previously travellers were allowed to bring in

items worth only JD 7," Mr. Oudah pointed out.

The law, he said, includes new provisions which will block the loopholes exposed in the previous law, and prescribe more clearly the duty collection and the value assessment systems. "The new law has also created a customs tariff council composed of the ministers of finance, industry and trade and supply which will be empowered to protect locally produced commodities by cancelling duty exemptions on all similar imported products," he said.

According to Mr. Oudah, the new law provides for the imposition of heavy fines on customs violations and smuggling, and details of other penalties that can be imposed for such crimes.

Tobacco growing

Mr. Oudah said that "his ministry has issued instructions to farmers recently prohibiting the growing of tobacco on land areas in excess of 10 dunums in order to preserve the interests of both the farmers and the cigarette manufacturers."

"In fact, cigarette companies have a stock of tobacco sufficient for the next five years and we do not want to see a huge surplus of tobacco that cannot be used by these companies," he said.

Mr. Oudah also said that the government plans to back up this policy by eliminating subsidies to farmers and by placing a moratorium on the granting of new licences to farmers wishing to produce tobacco.

King to chair discussion of education study report

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein will chair a meeting of the Education Council in the second half of the coming month to discuss a working paper focussing on education problems and detailing proposed solutions, Minister of Education Sa'id Al Tal announced here Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference, Dr. Tal said that the council has plans to deal with all education problems but will concentrate on the standard of school buildings and the living conditions of teachers. These and other problems are explored in depth in the study which will be discussed at the meeting with the King, Dr. Tal pointed out.

He said that the council's meeting with the King last month had

been characterised by frankness and clarity and he expressed the hope that the coming meeting will achieve fruitful results.

Referring to the school system, the minister said that measures are being taken to ensure that teaching will begin from the first day of term rather than taking days and possibly weeks as at present to get underway. He also said that the Ministry of Education is currently making arrangements to

develop the examination system and to make them less traumatic for students who have difficulty with such a method of assessment.

Education philosophy in Jordan is based on two basic principles: "democracy in education and linking education with the community's needs", Dr. Tal said.

He said that regulations for the award of scholarships are under review because the ministry is trying to recruit highly qualified teachers in all disciplines to fill the gaps existing in the governorates.

Dr. Tal also said that the Ministry of Education intends to appoint only women teachers in elementary schools in order to find work for the increasing number of community colleges graduates.

Tawjihi exam results announced

AMMAN (Petra) — Out of nearly 60,000 students who appeared for the General Secondary Certificate (tawjihi) examinations for 1982/83, a total of 28,153 passed, Ministry of Education Director of Examinations Dr. Ahmad Al Basbairah announced Saturday.

Speaking at a press conference held at the ministry to announce the results of the examinations, Dr. Basbairah said that the total number of tawjihi students in the East Bank of Jordan was 45,408 and the West Bank 13,859 in the scientific, literary, commercial,

agricultural, industrial, postal, nursing and hotel management streams.

He said that a total of 27,340 male and female students appeared for the literary examinations but only 14,862—55.8 per cent—passed.

Out of 14,519 students who appeared the scientific stream examinations, 10,676 passed, (74.1 per cent). Of 2,074 students in the commercial stream, 1,304 passed (63.1 per cent). In the agricultural stream, 69 students passed (72.7 per cent).

A total of 105 (84.8 per cent). A total of 838 students passed the industrial stream examinations out of 1,224 (69 per cent). In the nursing stream, 174 passed out of 214 (81.3 per cent). In the postal stream, 166 passed out of 244 (68 per cent). Out of 88 students in the hotel management stream, 64 passed (72.7 per cent).

According to Dr. Basbairah, the results of the students in the occupied West Bank are being printed and lists will be sent to the respective schools before the end of this month.



Dr. Basbairah, the director of examinations, Saturday announces the results of the tawjihi examinations (Petra photo)

Jordanian economic mission returns from Turkish talks

AMMAN (Petra) — A team of Jordanian businessmen last week held talks with representatives from the Turkish economic sectors on ways of bolstering trade and commercial relations between Jordan and Turkey, according to Mr. Hamdi Al Tabba', president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce (FJCC).

Speaking here upon returning from a five-day visit to Turkey at the head of the Jordanian team, Mr. Tabba' said that they met officials of the Turkish chambers of commerce and industry businessmen and industrialists.

The talks centred on increasing Jordanian-Turkish trade and the possibility of launching joint economic ventures he said. The two sides, Mr. Tabba' added, agreed to exchange further visits and information in connection with the trade and economic development.

During its visit, the Jordanian team visited Turkish factories and discussed the private sector's role in the country's development.

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Ministry of Education Secretary-General Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat Saturday chairs a meeting with a delegation from Oman which hopes to recruit Jordanian teachers (Petra photo)

Arabiyat meets Omani team

AMMAN (Petra) — The secondment of Jordanian teachers to Oman was discussed at a meeting here Saturday between an Omani educational mission and the Ministry of Education Secretary-General Dr. Abdul Latif Arabiyat.

Dr. Arabiyat was quoted as saying at the meeting that the ministry is willing to send Jordanian teachers to Omani schools according to the country's available resources.

The Omani mission is being led by Mr. Aqil Abdul Noor who usually heads such delegations from Oman aimed at recruiting Jordanian teachers.

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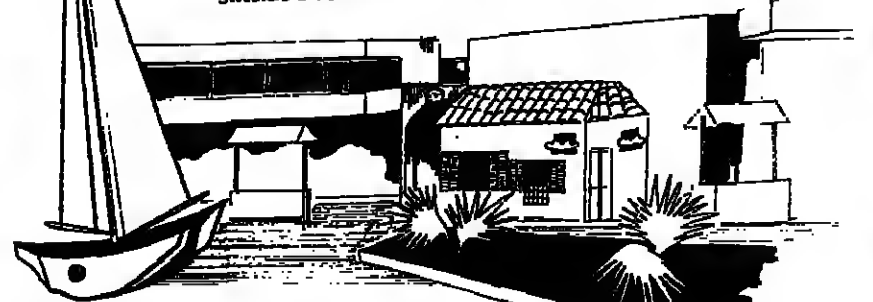
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Mr. Cheysson is due to arrive in Brazil next Tuesday. He goes to Bolivia on July 30, to Colombia on August 4 and to Havana two days

سکونت اعلیٰ

Is India's ambitious nuclear programme worth its cost?

By S. Rajagopalan

NEW DELHI — India and the U.S. recently resolved a five-year-old dispute, with the U.S. agreeing to resume supplies of spare parts for the U.S.-built nuclear station at Tarapur, near Bombay, if India was unable to get spares elsewhere. There have been recent reports that the 20-year-old plant could be a radiation hazard because of the lack of these parts.

The end of June agreement, besides improving U.S.-India relations, once again dragged into the limelight India's ambitious nuclear programme — a programme, according to one critic, driven more by the ambition of local politicians than by rational energy considerations.

Indian policy makers "have not recognised the potential hazards of nuclear power and, subsequently, every politician demands a nuclear plant in his constituency in order to boost his political image", according to science policy expert Dharendra Sharma, of New Delhi's Jawahar Nehru University.

In his recent book, "India's Nuclear Estate", Mr. Sharma calls for a moratorium on the nation's nuclear power programme. He says the performance of the government's Department of Atomic

Energy "has been dismal, especially in the past decade, and the future is equally uncertain".

The nuclear establishment in India seldom enters into public discussion or reacts to criticism, says Mr. Sharma, who castigates the department for secrecy and unaccountability and describes it as "a tightly closed nuclear sub-government".

By the year 2000, the Department of Atomic Energy plans to create facilities to generate 10,000 Megawatts (MW) of nuclear power to meet 10 per cent of India's energy needs.

India now has two operating atomic power stations: The one at Tarapur, near Bombay (which uses enriched uranium for fuel), and at Rana Pratap Sagar, in Rajasthan state (which uses natural uranium fuel and heavy water).

During the last 13 years these plants have seldom generated more than 50 per cent of their joint capacity of 860 MW. High radiation levels at Tarapur forced the authorities to almost halve the output of one 210 MW unit. One unit at Rajasthan has been closed for three months.

Two more 470 MW plants are under construction; both are several years behind schedule. The one at Kalpakkam, near Madras, is likely to be commissioned in 1984/85, and the other at Narora, in Uttar Pradesh state, two or

three years later. The Kalpakkam plant has been delayed because of a shortage of heavy water. This is produced in India, but the production has been erratic and low because of power cuts and labour problems.

Opposition politicians and scientists have ridiculed the ambitious target of 10,000 MW, pointing out that it will require an investment of \$35 billion, in less than 20 years, which the country can ill afford. India's nuclear programme will cost \$530 million over 1980/85.

India's stated goal is total self-reliance in the nuclear programme. The Tarapur station uses imported enriched uranium, while the other atomic stations are using the less expensive pressurised heavy water reactors. But critics question whether the programme can lead the country to self-reliance and if so, at what cost.

A New Delhi-based citizen's group, the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, has demanded an independent scientific evaluation of the whole nuclear programme: "Atoms for peace and atoms for war: are inseparable Siamese twins. As fission technology without its military spinoff is uneconomical for power generation, we should objectively reassess our nuclear policy".

India exploded a nuclear device at Pokhran, in the Rajasthan

desert in 1974. This hastened the whole nuclear programme. Canada quickly withdrew its support for the Rajasthan station, and the U.S. gradually cut off supplies of enriched uranium to Tarapur.

In 1978 the U.S. passed a law to stop supplies of nuclear material and expertise to countries which had not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and did not accept full-scale safeguards. The London Nuclear Suppliers' Club also introduced curbs.

India says the NPT is discriminatory because it does not apply to the five big nuclear weapons powers (U.S., USSR, Britain, France and Canada), while subjecting new entrants into the field to restrictions. India has refused to sign it.

India maintains that it is committed to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and that the International Atomic Energy Agency should promote this rather than act the role of a policeman.

India has conducted no further tests since 1974. Dr. Bertrand Goldschmidt, a former director of the French Atomic Energy Commission, points out that India is the only nuclear power which has not started a real nuclear armaments programme. France has agreed to provide enriched ura-

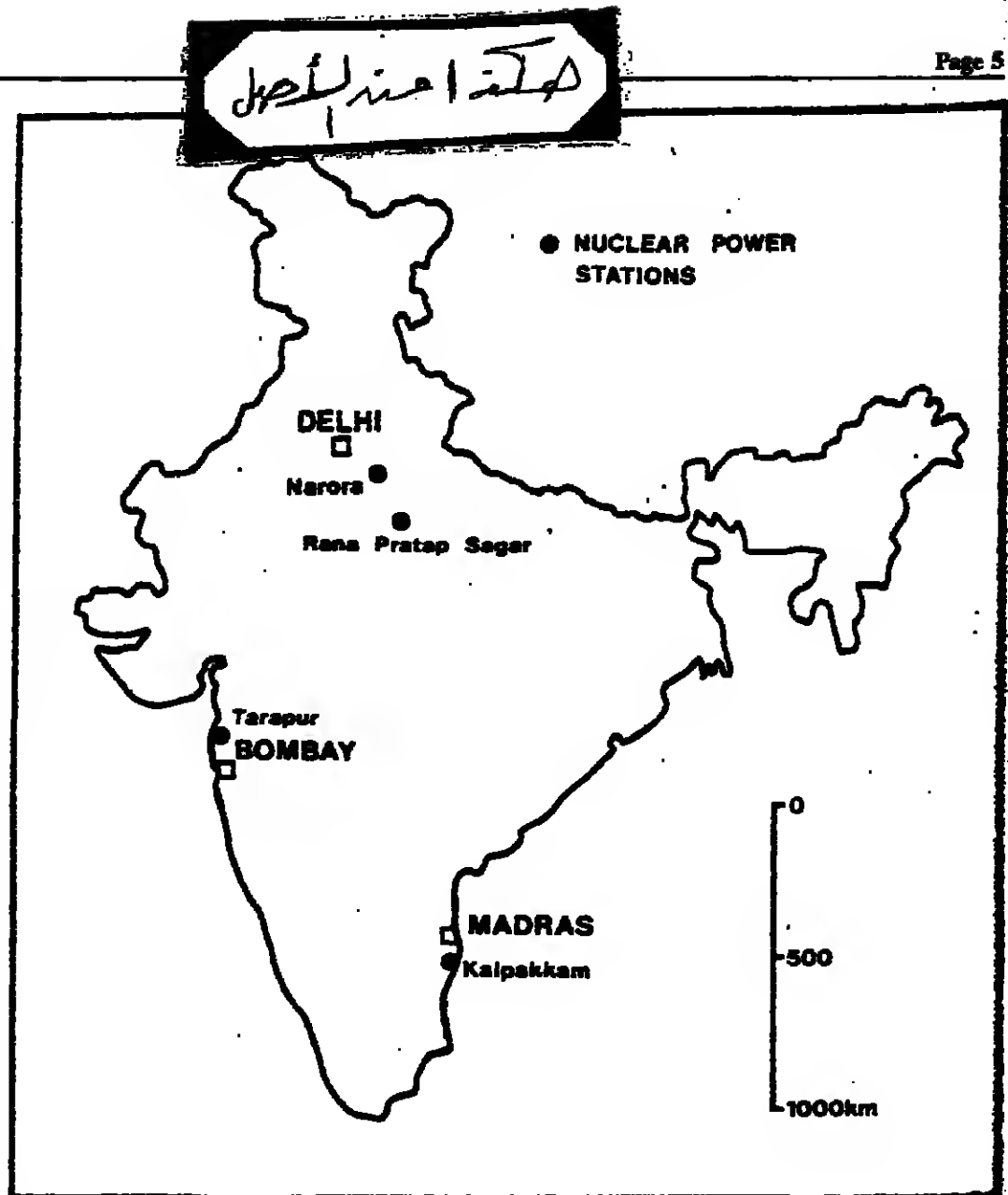
nium for Tarapur.

The U.S. newspaper, The Washington Post, claimed recently that India was stockpiling arms grade plutonium separated from Tarapur's spent fuel. If the country decided upon a nuclear weapons programme, this supply would enable it to make 20 atomic bombs a year, the paper speculated.

Countering this, K. Subramanyam, Director of the Indian Institute of Defence Studies and Analyses, says: "Even the U.S. with all its sophistication, is unable to use vast quantities of reactor grade plutonium for an explosion". The facts have been misrepresented, says Mr. Subramanyam. The International Fuel Cycle Evaluation Conference has also noted that no country has so far launched a weapons programme with reactor grade plutonium.

However, there is a strong lobby within India which favours keeping the nuclear option open, because of Pakistan's reported effort to attain nuclear-weapons capability. This lobby feels it is dangerous to underestimate Pakistan's technological capability, and sees a parallel with China, which surprised the world in 1964 by exploding a bomb.

— Earthscan feature



Claude Monet: The father of Impressionism

By Raymond Paccard
Radio France Internationale

Claude Monet, the "father of Impressionism", is back in Paris. After the superb exhibition devoted to him in February 1980 at the Grand Palais and which showed 130 paintings from the Jeu de Paume Museum, from private and foreign collections, Monet is again the star in the capital, where the Marais cultural centre is giving him a wonderful exhibition. The occasion is the centenary of the painter's settling at Giverny, a little Norman village west of Paris, not far from the Seine (so dear to Impressionists) and from the little River Epte, flanked by poplar trees. These trees flanked the master's morning walks; he got up at dawn and for these walks he had to cross the bridge over the Marais cultural centre is exhibiting, until July 17, forty-five canvases, all painted by Monet, at Giverny and brought from all over the world. It was in the house (now a museum), where the artist lived

in the heart of the village, and particularly in the famous garden around the house that the great series of paintings, the "Meules", the "Cathedrals" and (better known to the general public) the "Nymphs", were painted. The three series kept Monet hard at work for the last twenty years of his life.

For the "Nymphs" series, he had the famous ponds made and planted with all the known varieties of water lily. With the "Nymphs", Monet had attained his goal: "To fix sensations" on canvas. This was the main aim, the whole way of living and expressing themselves, of those whom had been called, out of derision at first, the "Impressionists", thanks to a 1872 canvas which Monet had entitled "Impression, Sunrise". The title was given to him by the name "Impressionists" to Monet and to all his friends, Renoir, Sisley, Manet, Cezanne, without forgetting the English painter Turner whom Monet admired very much. Monet's eye was adept at fixing

on canvas the fields dotted red with poppies (one of the main painting attractions of the exhibition), the daffodils, tulips, the wisteria and irises in the spring, the rose trees, bluebells and nasturtiums in summer, the dahlias and asters in autumn. All these flowers he planted in long, wide rows.

Monet painted ceaselessly, sometimes furiously, and often destroyed his paintings, displeased with them. More than forty varieties of flowers and hardy plants enabled the garden to remain permanently in flower. The pond which flanked the property to the south inspired in Monet the theme of his "Promenade en barque" (Boat outing), a pretext to paint the reflections and the play of light on water.

These reflections, which were the origin of Monet's revolutionary genius, were born with

him at Le Havre, where the artist spent his youth. His parents, who were gormers, could not understand their son's frenzied love of painting. And what painting! Instead of faithfully reproducing the

boats moored in the port, he painted... their reflection in the water! Impressionism was born, and what it a great movement and a great influence on late-19th and the whole of 20th-century art.



"Femmes en barque" painted by Claude Monet in 1887.

Discovery of Napoleon's flagship could yield gold

By Hamza Hendawi
Reuters

ABOUKIR, Egypt — The discovery off Egypt of Napoleon Bonaparte's flagship, L'Orient, has led to hopes of uncovering a treasure of plundered gold and gems that it was carrying when sunk.

L'Orient, which had three bridges, 120 cannons and more than 1,000 men aboard, was recently found by a Franco-Egyptian naval diving team in the Bay of Aboukir, near the Mediterranean port city of Alexandria.

Legend says that Napoleon's warship was carrying a load of gold bullion, silver, and jewelled robes that he had snatched from the then-infamous Knights of Malta, who were as skilled at piracy as they had once been at crusading.

It was in the Battle of Aboukir

Bay in August 1798 that Britain's Admiral Horatio Nelson destroyed the French emperor's navy, which had brought his troops to Egypt on an ill-fated invasion a month earlier.

Huge chests of gold are also believed to have been kept aboard the ship by Napoleon to pay his men and finance his ambitious expedition to the east.

Team members sceptical

But members of the salvage team are sceptical of retrieving gold from L'Orient. They said it could not be ruled out that Napoleon removed the gold from the vessel before the battle, or that his men rescued it from the wreck after the fight.

Many also believe that L'Orient's riches were scattered over several kilometres of water. A fire on board spread to the powder

magazine, which exploded with a bang that was felt by French soldiers camping 40 kilometres inland.

Apart from L'Orient, which blew up before it went down, the head of the expedition, Frenchman Jacques Dumas, says another vessel was also discovered and that two more are believed to be in the same area, some 10 miles off the coast.

He believes the four vessels could provide the world's first collection of 18th century warships and could give military historians new information on how "the Battle of the Nile" was fought.

Mr. Dumas, 57, a maritime lawyer who learned scuba-diving as a teenager with oceanographer Jacques Cousteau is hoping to find the L'Orient's battle records.

"If we do, when we will have the best possible means of knowing what really happened," he said.

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SPORTS

Fignon wins tour stage, heads for overall victory

DIJON, France (R) — Frenchman Laurent Fignon strengthened his lead in the Tour de France cycle classic here on Saturday and headed for overall victory when he won the 21st and penultimate stage, a 50-km individual time trial.

The Parisian rider, who at 22 looks like becoming one of the youngest winners of the race, was fastest by 35 seconds on a tough course which finished on a motor-racing circuit near here.

The youngest tour winner was Henri Cornet in 1914. He was just 21 years old.

Saturday's stage was a cliffhanger, with Fignon last to start, and Angel Arroyo of Spain looked the likely winner when he came home in one hour 12 minutes 12 seconds.

Fignon's intermediate times at 18 and 25 kilometres were seconds slower than those of the Spaniard, but the Frenchman produced a performance for the last half of the windswept course which wiped out Spanish hopes.

It was the first time Fignon had finished in the top four of a stage since the tour began in Paris on July 1 and it increased his overall lead to four minutes and four seconds.

The riders later headed by rail on the TGV (high speed train) express to Paris in readiness for Sunday's 22nd and final stage from Alençonville over 192 kilometres to the traditional grandstand finish in the Avenue des Champs Elysees.

There to greet his young teammate will be Bernard Hinault, the four-times tour victor since 1974.

Soviet title holder claims world fencing for 5th time

VIENNA (R) — Alexander Romankov of the Soviet Union won the men's foil title for the fifth time at the World Fencing Championships, defeating Matthias Gey of West Germany 11-8 in the final here on Friday.

Romankov had to fight his way through a series of repechages to qualify for the last eight after surprisingly losing to West German Harald Hein in the second round of a direct elimination series.

But the Russian gained revenge in the quarter-finals by defeating Hein 11-4.

elined by a knee injury this year.

Only France's Jacques Anquetil and Belgium's Eddy Merckx have won cycling's most demanding race five times.

Arroyo, 26, moved from fourth to second overall and looked set to be the first Spanish rider to finish in the tour's top three since Vicente Lopez Carril was third in 1974.

IOC president in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — The President of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) arrived in Moscow Friday amidst continued speculation that the Soviet Union might boycott the Los Angeles Olympic Games next year.

The official Soviet news agency TASS said Juan Antonio Samaranch was in Moscow as a guest of honour of the eighth Soviet Spartakiad (summer games).

President of the Soviet National Olympic Committee (NOC), Marat Gramov, Friday underlined his country's misgivings about the state of readiness of Los Angeles for the 1984 games.

Speaking at a news conference, Gramov said the question of a boycott had not yet been raised at the Soviet NOC, but he said many issues had still to be resolved in Los Angeles.

"There is the problem of safety, which is uppermost in the minds of Sports leaders in many countries... and we cannot but be concerned by the problem of objective refereeing," he said, adding that some 40 per cent of the referees at the 1984 games would be from the United States.

"Will the Olympic Games in Los Angeles be in line with the spirit of the Olympic Charter?" Gramov asked.

He left the question of Soviet

participation open, saying that the Soviet Union stood for honouring Olympic principles and that methods like boycotts were alien to it.

"So far none of the countries have declared that they will participate in the 1984 games, and it is not clear why they (the western media) are demanding some statement from us... we have to report our decision eight weeks before the Olympics," he added.

Soviet officials have said they

do not relate their participation in the Los Angeles games to a U.S.-led boycott of the 1980 Moscow Olympics.

The Los Angeles times on Thursday quoted the Executive Director of the IOC, Monique Berlioux, as saying she and Samaranch feared a Soviet boycott if the western allies went ahead with plans to deploy new cruise and Pershing-2 missiles in Western Europe at the end of this year.

Time Charter wins King George, Queen Elizabeth Stakes at Ascot

ASCOT, England (R) — Time Charter regained the form which took the filly to success in last year's English Oaks and Champion Stakes by beating Diamond Shoal and Sun Princess in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes here on Saturday.

The race was a battle of substitute jockeys as Joe Mercer, a replacement for the injured Billy Newnes on 5-1 chance Time Charter, wore down Lester Piggott, who stood in for suspended American Steve Cauthen on 8-1 shot Diamond Shoal.

Time Charter finished the mile and a half test three-quarters of a length ahead, with this season's English Oaks winner Sun Princess, ridden by Willie Carson,

another length adrift. The victory was worth £134,000 (\$203,000) to owner Robert Barnett.

Caerleon started as 9-4, joint favourite with Sun Princess, but the colt lost two front shoes and dropped out very quickly rounding the home turn. Jockey Pat Eddery almost pulled him up two furlongs from home.

Mercer said: "I was booked for the ride last Tuesday and had a work out with Time Charter on Thursday. This morning I had a long chat with her regular partner Billy Newnes and he told me: 'Just relax and she'll go when you want to'."

Provisional approval for Zico signing

ROME (R) — The Italian Olympic committee reversing a decision earlier this month by the soccer federation, Saturday gave provisional approval for the purchase by Italian clubs of Brazilian international Zico and Toinho Cerezo.

It said Zico could play for northern club Udinese next season and Cerezo for champions Roma provided the two clubs proved within 10 days that the cost of the signings could be covered by club finances.

The federation had vetoed the signings on July 2, citing financial irregularities in the Zico deal and saying the Cerezo signing had been made after a deadline for the acquisition of foreign players.

The decision was announced by the president of the Olympic Committee, Franco Carraro, at the end of a special meeting called to discuss the vetoed transfers.

Zico, a brilliant midfielder and goalscorer, prompted a wave of season ticket sales at Udinese when he agreed to leave Brazil's Flamengo for the club last month.

But the euphoria was cut short when the federation ruled that the deal was irregular because it was made through a London-based intermediary company and not directly with Flamengo.

Cerezo, another star international, was signed from Athletico Mineiro, but the federation said the transfer was completed after the June 13 deadline it set for the signing of foreign players.

Soccer officials said the Olympic Committee ruling was based on the opinion of three jurists and on new documents on the transfers provided by the two clubs.

The committee has higher authority than the football federation in arbitration on transfers.

Americans crash out of Federation Cup

ZURICH (R) — Czechoslovak Hana Mandlikova ended the United States' seven year stranglehold on the Federation Cup Women's Team Tennis Championship here on Saturday when she battled back to beat world number three Andrea Jaeger in a dramatic semifinal tie.

Mandlikova's 7-6, 5-7, 6-3 win gave third-seeded Czechoslovakia an unassailable 2-0 lead over the holders — Helena Sukova crushed Candy Reynolds 6-7, 6-2, 6-2 earlier.

The Americans then scratched from the doubles to give their opponents victory by a 3-0 margin.

It was the first U.S. defeat in 37 Federation Cup matches and only the seventh time in 21 years they had not reached the final.

Czechoslovakia, winners in 1975, face second seeds West Germany for the title on Sunday. The West Germans eliminated Switzerland in the other semifinal and reached the final for the second successive year.

Sukova, 18, ranked 21st in the world, lost the opening set to Reynolds on a tiebreak but recovered superbly to put Czechoslovakia 1-0 ahead.

Reynolds, clearly suffering after her marathon three-hour singles defeat on Friday by Yugoslavia's Sabrina Goleš, was outplayed in the next two sets.

The seventh-seeded Swiss, who knocked out fourth-seeded Australia Friday, had no answer to the accuracy and power of the Germans.

Claudia Kohde beat Petra Delhees 6-4, 6-3 and Bettina Bunge thrashed Christine Jolissaint 6-0, 6-3 for a winning 2-0 lead.

Kohde, ranked 16th in the world, broke Delhees in the 10th game of the opening set and had little trouble in the second.

Bunge avenged her Wimbledon defeat by Jolissaint when she raced to a comfortable straight sets triumph.

Gottfried, Purcell out of Washington tennis classic

WASHINGTON (R) — Third seed Brian Gottfried and fifth-seed Mel Purcell of the U.S. were dumped out of the \$200,000 Washington tennis classic on Friday when they were defeated by unfancied opponents.

In the shock results of the third round, Gottfried went down against unseeded Claudio Panatta of Italy, 6-0, 4-6, 4-6, while Purcell was upended by 15th-seed Mario Martinez of Bolivia, 6-4, 6-7, 1-6.

But other top players fared better. Jose-Luis Clerc of Argentina, the No. 1 seed, advanced to the quarter-finals with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Derek Tarr of South Africa.

His next match will be against ninth-seeded Pablo Arraya of Peru, a 6-4, 6-4 winner on Friday over Juan Aguilera of Spain.

Clerc's main rival, the second-seeded Jimmy Arias of the U.S., also advanced by crushing Dominique Bedel of France, 6-4, 6-1.

and sixth-seeded Andre Gomez of Ecuador dashed the hopes of Chris Johnstone of Australia, 6-2, 6-4.

Gottfried started out his match against Panatta as though he was going to walk all over the Italian, who looked shaky in the first set. But Panatta switched to a serve-and-volley battle plan for the next two sets and finished a convincing winner.

Panatta broke Gottfried's serve in the fifth game of the third set and then exchanged games with the American before serving out the match.

The pattern of this match was repeated in the contest between Purcell and Martinez. Purcell dominated play early on but the Bolivian dug in and took the second set after forcing a tiebreaker. The American faded in the final set and Martinez recorded four service breaks to win the match.

English TCCB admits talks on new touring side to replace West Indies

LONDON (R) — Peter Lush, English Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) spokesman, admitted Saturday there had been tentative discussions on finding a replacement for the West Indies if they withdrew from their 1984 tour of England.

He was reacting to an English newspaper report that Australia had been formally requested to make a full six-test tour if the West Indies pulled out.

Doubts about the West Indies making the tour have arisen because Caribbean officials are insisting that they will not face any county side containing players who have been no rebel tours of South Africa. This applies to English players who went on an unofficial tour last year and the West

Indian rebels who visited South Africa earlier this year.

Lush said any discussions on a replacement touring side "that have taken place so far are purely on a tentative basis."

"All our energies are being used in order to ensure that the planned tour by the West Indies goes ahead," Lush said. "We are awaiting a response from them following our recent discussions and hope to have an answer during August."

David Richards, chief executive of the Australian Cricket Board, said here Saturday: "I understand our board chairman Phil Riddings, who left London yesterday, had some informal discussion with the Test and County Cricket Board, but we had no formal request."

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WORLD

6 freed mercenaries arrive in South Africa from Seychelles

JOHANNESBURG (R) — Six mercenaries involved in an abortive 1981 coup in the Seychelles arrived in South Africa Saturday after being pardoned by President Albert Rene, the man they had hoped to topple from power.

Mr. Rene announced the pardons Friday and ordered the six men, four of whom had been sentenced to death, deported to South Africa.

The six — Martin Dolincheck, Jeremiah Puren, Robert Sims, Frank Brooks, Bernard Carey and Roger England — were greeted at the airport by members of their families.

Dolincheck, a South African who had been a member of the National Intelligence Service, told reporters the news of their pardon came out of the blue last Thursday. He said he would never again become involved in mer-

cenary work. Asked why he was involved in the Seychelles, he replied: "That's a good question."

Puren, another South African, said he had become involved because he had a personal friend who wanted to head the Seychelles government.

"No caper"

Puren objected to a reporter's description of the coup attempt as a caper, saying: "It was not a caper. It was a very serious business at the time."

Carey said the captured mercenaries had not been treated well

at first, but conditions improved later.

"For the first week it was very rough, then we had nine months solitary, then two months in limbo. Then nine months on the (Platte) Island were very good," he said.

Reliable sources said that Carey, a Briton, and England, a Zimbabwean former British national, would travel to Britain shortly. Carey and England had been sentenced to death last July with Brooks, a Zimbabwean, and Puren, a South African.

A State House statement in Victoria, the Seychelles capital, said they had been pardoned because two years' imprisonment had taught them that the government "was not a cruel and bloodthirsty regime."

"The world should know that this is not true and who else can

say this better than those who have been falsely induced to attack us?" it said.

The Seychelles statement said the pardon contrasted with the practice of other countries where appeals for clemency were ignored. This was an apparent reference to South Africa, which last month hanged three guerrillas of the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) despite international appeals for clemency.

The statement said the Seychelles would not show such clemency again.

The plot against Mr. Rene, who came to power in a left-wing coup in 1977, was uncovered when customs officials at Seychelles International Airport found a gun concealed in the luggage of the main force of mercenaries, who arrived posing as members of a beer-drinking club.

U.S. said planning greater military role in C. America

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan has approved a plan calling for greater U.S. military involvement in Central America and a possible limited blockade of Nicaragua, the New York Times reported Saturday.

The Times, quoting senior administration officials, said Mr. Reagan approved the plan this month after a number of high-level meetings and told the Pentagon to draw up a blueprint for its execution.

There was no immediate comment from the administration on the report.

The administration has ordered a series of air, sea and land exercises beginning next month in Central America and the Car-

ibbean.

According to the newspaper, these exercises were partly designed to refine plans for imposing a military quarantine around leftist Nicaragua and would give Mr. Reagan the option of ordering action against selected shipping later this year or early in 1984.

The Times said U.S. officials reported that classified plans for the exercises include installation of radar and electronic surveillance posts in Central America, as well as positioning of large stocks of military equipment in Honduras, Washington's closest ally in the region.

It said the plans also call for the start of construction on a \$150-million air and naval base on the

Atlantic coast of Honduras.

Salvador rebels strike

SAN SALVADOR (R) — Leftist guerrillas blew up a freight train Friday and blacked out three of El Salvador's provinces by bombing electricity pylons, military officials said.

The rebels stopped the train 16 kilometres north of the capital, ordered the crew off, and destroyed the locomotive and seven wagons with dynamite charges, they added.

The train had followed bomb blasts that toppled two pylons and blacked out three provinces, including San Salvador where power was cut for 10 hours.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brittan calls for racial tolerance

BRADFORD, England (R) — Britain's new home secretary, Leo Brittan, Friday pleaded for cultural and racial tolerance when conceding there was too much prejudice against the two million non-whites, four per cent of the population. "I am unshakably opposed to discrimination on any grounds and I am determined members of every ethnic minority should enjoy the equality before the law and equality of opportunity which is the priceless heritage of all of our fellow citizens," he said at a Hindu cultural centre and temple in Bradford.

Khmer Rouge reject proposal

BANGKOK (R) — Kampuchea's ousted Khmer Rouge leadership Saturday rejected calls by three communist states for talks aimed at solving the Kampuchean conflict. The Khmer Rouge Radio, monitored in Bangkok and believed to be based in South China, insisted on a United Nations-sponsored international settlement of the Kampuchean dispute. It said only a total, unconditional withdrawal of Vietnamese troops from Kampuchea in line with U.N. resolutions and the 1981 U.N. international conference on Kampuchea would solve the dispute "completely."

Japanese torrents take high toll

TOKYO (R) — More than 100 people were dead or missing in western Japan Saturday after torrential rain caused mudslides and widespread flooding, police said. They said at least 45 bodies had been recovered so far and another 39 people were missing in the west of the main island of Honshu, where up to 55 cm of rain was recorded Friday and Saturday. About 445 houses were destroyed, another 80 were washed away and nearly 12,000 were inundated by floodwater, which also cut roads at 66 places, swept away 19 bridges and paralysed rail services, police said.

Ist Indian-made nuclear plant opened

NEW DELHI (R) — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi switched on India's first domestically-built nuclear power station Saturday and pledged to use atomic energy only for peaceful purposes. The plant, at Kalpakkam, in the southern state of Tamil Nadu, was designed and built by Indian scientists and engineers. "We want to make the desert bloom, not make the world a desert," Mrs. Gandhi said. India's nuclear programme was designed only for good and peaceful purposes.

Trouble in Sri Lankan universities

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan President Junius Jayewardene has re-appointed heads of universities he removed Friday and has given them greater authority to enforce discipline. Officials said the move was aimed at cracking down on student unrest, which had disrupted academic work for several months. Mr. Jayewardene, who is also higher education minister, has issued emergency regulations, giving powers of university councils to vice-chancellors whom he re-appointed. On Monday the government imposed press censorship on news relating to higher education bodies.

Malaysian minister gets no quarter

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Malaysia's highest court Saturday upheld the death sentence on former Cabinet Minister Datuk Mokhtar Hashim for the murder of a political rival shortly before general elections last April. But the federal court allowed an appeal by village headman Rahmat Satiman, jointly charged with Datuk Mokhtar for the murder, and dismissed all charges against him. Datuk Mokhtar, 42, a former culture, youth and sports minister, can be saved from the gallows only by a royal pardon. He was convicted in March of killing Datuk Mohamad Taha Talib, assembly speaker in the former minister's home state of Negri Sembilan.

Warsaw starts freeing detainees

WARSAW (R) — Polish authorities Saturday began a programme to release political prisoners under a limited amnesty following Friday's lifting of martial law, a justice ministry official said.

The official said some individual detainees may have been freed Friday but the programme, which will release all women, men under 21 and those serving sentences of less than three years, formally started Saturday morning.

He had no figures for those being freed.

Justice Minister Sylwester Zawadzki said in an interview this week the amnesty would cover

190 prisoners serving sentences, 465 people arrested pending trial and 182 people being punished for misdemeanours — lesser crimes including participation in demonstrations.

In addition the amnesty could apply to 687 people on parole from prison under a clemency scheme introduced at the start of this year.

A spokesman for the chief prosecutor's office said those awaiting trial but eligible for amnesty would probably not be freed until Monday as their cases would have to be examined by individual prosecutors.

In his interview with the gov-

ernment daily Rzeczpospolita, Mr. Zawadzki said: "We believe it is no longer necessary to resort exclusively to force which was needed to ensure peace and public order."

Now, as the government worked for broad national reconciliation, "it is possible to forgive, or to treat more leniently, perpetrators of crimes."

He underlined that the amnesty would not cover members of the dissident movement KOR, convicted leaders of the nationalist movement KPN or seven top officials of the banned Solidarity union who all face anti-state charges.

Norway told to cut whale catch

BRIGHTON, England (R) — Conservationists claimed a victory Saturday as Norway, one of the world's four major whaling nations, was told to cut its catches by nearly two-thirds.

Delegates at the International Whaling Commission's (IWC) annual conference voted by three to one to reduce Norway's yearly quota of minke whales from 1690 to 635.

The decision takes the IWC a step nearer to its goal of a ban on all commercial whaling from 1986.

Japan, the Soviet Union, Norway and Peru had opposed the ban, but as the week-long conference ended early Saturday Peru withdrew its objection, the IWC said.

The conference, meeting in this south coast resort town, agreed to cut the total permitted catch of whales to around 12,500 this year from 14,000 last year.

Japan, the world's biggest whaling nation, was allowed to keep last year's quota of 421 whales for 1983, the IWC said. The catches for the Soviet Union and Peru were also unchanged at some 170 each.

The total international catch has fallen from 46,000 in 1973 and several countries have stopped whaling. The anti-whalers have the support of the Reagan administration and are determined to end the controversial hunt, except for small catches by Eskimos.

The environmental group Greenpeace welcomed Saturday's IWC decision. "Japan and the Soviet Union are now really isolated and we are very pleased overall," a spokesman said.

The United States has warned Japan, which has most strongly opposed the 1986 ban, that its allocated fish catch in U.S. waters may be cut if it defies the IWC.

In Oslo, a Norwegian foreign office official said Norway will accept the cut in its quota.

"It is difficult to see how we can avoid abiding by the commission's decision," Erling Berg, under-secretary of state in the foreign office, added.

Fishing industry spokesmen said the cut was bound to affect the Norwegian whaling industry badly.

Moscow criticises Eurocommunists

MOSCOW (R) — Western communist parties came under fire from a senior Soviet official Saturday for failing to show enough loyalty to Moscow.

Vadim Zagladin, deputy head of the Soviet Party's international department, said many Western parties had been infiltrated by bourgeois ideas and had taken a wrong stand on important foreign policy issues.

He said Western parties should

have rejected the idea that the Soviet bloc was as much responsible for present international tensions as the West, but some had accepted this thesis.

Mr. Zagladin did not mention any parties by name, but his criticism appeared to be aimed primarily at the Italian communists and other Western European groups who support its policy of ideological independence from Moscow.

The Italian party leadership has criticised the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan and Moscow's attitude towards Poland. It has also said the Soviet bloc bears part of the blame for the arms race.

Mr. Zagladin said the problem among the Western parties was that too many members had grown up at a time of economic affluence and this meant that their views were shaped at a time of "low pressure class struggle."

FBI praises heroic passengers but tells others never to follow suit

MIAMI (R) — Passengers who overpowered a hijacker on a Boeing 727 over Florida Thursday were commended for their courage Saturday but aviation officials said other people were not advised to take similar action.

"We're not encouraging passengers to take on hijackers," said federal aviation administration spokesman Jack Barker.

"In this instance it was successful," said Federal Bureau of Investigation agent Jim Freeman. "I don't criticise it, but I don't recommend it for everyone."

Two Floridians "had a go" when their plane heading for Miami, with 90 passengers and seven crew, was diverted by a hijacker after a stop in Tampa, Florida.

Dewey Parker, 45, vice president of a Miami cargo shipping company, and Blake Bell, a 29-year-old salesman, who did not know each other, communicated

in signs before they attacked the 43-year-old Cuban hijacker sitting between them.

The hijacker, later identified as Rodolfo Bueno Cruz, was holding a knife to the side of a stewardess, flanked on the window side by Bell and across the aisle by Parker.

They overwhelmed him when he tucked his knife under his leg to accept a coca-cola.

"I got (Bell's) attention and we agreed what we were going to do with silent signals back and forth," Parker, who has trained in martial arts, told reporters after the plane landed safely at Miami International Airport.

When the hijacker accepted the coca-cola, "Mr. Bell grabbed his left arm and I jumped out of my seat and grabbed his right arm and I grabbed the knife and put it behind me," Mr. Parker said. "One of the flight crew took it

and we subdued him and a few more passengers came and piled on and it became a kind of free for all and we subdued him quite easily. He wasn't a large fellow."

Cruz was trussed with seat belts until the plane landed.

"In that particular situation we didn't have any doubts," Mr. Bell said. "If it had been a gun, it'd have been a bomb, it would have been different."

When Cruz appeared in court on Friday, Federal Magistrate Peter Nimkoff ordered him to be held without bond and undergo a psychiatric examination.

Prosecutors said Cruz was considered suicidal and had twice been arrested in Tampa for allegedly raping his retarded 16-year-old daughter.

A public defender was appointed after Cruz told Nimkoff that \$33 found in his pockets Thursday were his sole assets.

Soviets free Greenpeace activists in U.S. waters

VANCOUVER (R) — Soviet ships Saturday handed back the seven Greenpeace activists arrested when they went ashore to investigate a whaling station in Siberia, a spokesman for the environmentalist group said.

The handover took place in U.S. waters when the group's protest trawler, the Rainbow Warrior, met five Soviet ships which came across the Bering Sea with the detainees.

The Greenpeace spokesman said: "All seven are safe aboard the Rainbow Warrior. They are healthy and in good spirits."

The sea was calm and grey whales cruised around the Rainbow Warrior as it approached the handover point, the official said.

The six Americans and one Canadian were arrested last Monday at Loring on the remote Chukchi Peninsula.

The Rainbow Warrior escaped to Alaska after being chased by a Soviet helicopter and ship.

Greenpeace alleges that the Soviet Union breached international whaling commission

regulations by using whale meat from the station to feed mink in a fur operation there.

Whaling regulations stipulate that the whale meat can be used only for consumption by aboriginal people.

The Greenpeace spokesman said Saturday's handover took about 90 minutes.

A speedboat from the Rainbow Warrior went over to a Soviet research vessel which was carrying the protesters.

The spokesman said the Soviet authorities then asked for Ed Rasmussen, the mayor of Nome, Alaska, to come aboard as the designated U.S. State Department representative.

After escaping his Soviet pursuers last Monday, the Rainbow Warrior put into port at Nome.

The Greenpeace spokesman said Mr. Rasmussen signed papers for release of the detainees. "The seven were then brought across in a Greenpeace speedboat. There is a jubilant atmosphere aboard the Rainbow Warrior," the spokesman said.

Craxi's adroit manoeuvring brings him within sight of Italy's top job

By Patrick Worsnip

ROME (R) — Benedetto (Bettino) Craxi has put the Italian Socialist Party, the country's third largest party, back on the political map after years in the wilderness.

Despite only modest gains at the polls, Mr. Craxi's adroit manoeuvring as party general secretary for the past seven years has put him in a position where he could bid to become Italy's first ever socialist prime minister.

He achieved this by playing off the two major parties which have traditionally squeezed the socialists — the Christian Democrats to the right and the communists to the left.

General elections last month left the socialists, who took just over 10 per cent of the vote, holding an effective balance of power.

Mr. Craxi, 49, from Milan, has tried to expand the socialists into a vigorous, Western-oriented party of anti-communist social democrats.

Although he has never held a ministerial post, his meteoric rise was recognised in an opinion poll last year which listed only the Pope and Fiat chairman Gianni Agnelli as more powerful.

But his attempts to swing his party to the right, and his unceasing personal ambitions, have made him enemies both within and outside his own ranks.

Symbolically, Mr. Craxi abolished hammer-and-sickle emblem of his party, replacing it with a red carnation.

He himself has tried to cultivate a more international image than the many parochial figures of Italian politics, becoming vice-president of the Socialist International and interesting himself in world affairs from Eastern Europe to South America.

A massive figure standing 1.90 metres tall, chubby-faced, bespectacled and almost bald, he is a natural gift to cartoonists.

A born politician, Mr. Craxi joined his party's central committee at 23 and became a Member of Parliament for Milan at the age of 34.

"Stop Craxi"

He was a disciple of veteran socialist Pietro Nenni, although the party elder statesman, recalling



Bettino Craxi

that fascist dictator Benito Mussolini was once a socialist, is said to have warned on his deathbed of his authoritarian protégé: "Stop Craxi."

Mr. Craxi chafed at his party's stagnation in the 1960s and early 70s and was the obvious choice for secretary when Francesco de Martino resigned after the socialist's worst ever showing in the 1976 elections.

He caused an immediate stir by firing half the party's headquarters staff.

His first major coup was in 1978 when Christian Democratic President Giovanni Leone resigned in a press scandal over his income tax returns.

Mr. Craxi played a major role in securing the election of Sandro Pertini, an elderly socialist who went on to become the most popular president in living memory.

Mr. Pertini returned the compliment a year later by inviting Mr. Craxi to form a government during one of Italy's cyclical political crises. He failed after a 17-day effort but left little doubt that his time would come sooner or later.

Armed with a party conference victory over his own left wing, Mr. Craxi the following year took the socialists into coalition with the Christian Democrats to give Italy its first majority government since 1974.

Crisis-maker

Mr. Craxi was widely credited with bringing down the same government just over a year later, in 1981, by pointedly absenting himself from a crisis meeting called to discuss the scandal of the secret P2 Masonic lodge.

It was Mr. Craxi again who precipitated this year's elections by pulling the socialists out of ano-

ther coalition government led by Christian Democrat Amintore Fanfani.

In both cases, his motive seems to have been to give himself another shot at the premiership, even though, due to a convention that party secretaries do not hold cabinet posts, he has no experience in government.

Mr. Craxi's disputes with the Christian Democrats have not pushed him into alliance with the communists despite communist leader Enrico Berlinguer's calls for a "democratic alternative" of the left.

Although on close terms with France's socialist President Francois Mitterrand, Mr. Craxi has been discouraged from any French-style socialist-communist pact by the knowledge that his party is much smaller than the communists, contrary to the situation in France.

Bettino Craxi was born in Milan on Feb. 24, 1934, the son of a Sicilian lawyer.

He studied law himself but embarked immediately on a political career in the young socialist movement. He was a Milan city councillor from 1960-70.

Garibaldi and Allende

The politicians he admires range from Giuseppe Garibaldi, the 19th century hero of Italian independence, to the late U.S. President John F. Kennedy and Salvador Allende, the leftist Chilean president who died in a rightist military coup in 1973.

One of the several books he has written, "Socialism From Santiago to Prague," refers to Mr. Allende and to the 1968 "Prague Spring" of disgraced Czechoslovak leader Alexander Dubcek.

Like Mr. Dubcek, he has tried to cultivate "socialism with a human face", shedding an earlier bureaucratic image. He tells jokes, wears jeans and smiles often.

His party alone favoured negotiations to save the life of Aldo Moro, the Christian Democrat politician kidnapped and later killed by Red Brigades urban guerrillas in 1978.

An enthusiast of art and the cinema, but dedicated above all to political work, Mr. Craxi speaks English and French and is married with two children.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KJ6 ♠AK932 ♠Q7 ♠876
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠954 ♠8542 ♠J6 ♠AQ52
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠Q1097 ♠832 074 ♠AJ95
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠AK865 ♠AQ72 ♠KJ3 ♠7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 2 NT Pass
3 ♠ Pass 3 NT Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠AQJ6 ♠A4 ♠J9 ♠AJ832
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠10963 ♠A ♠KJ65 ♠K1054
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Double 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?

إلى المجلد